

Application Serial No. 10/631,877
Reply to Office Action of December 6, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-3620

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-29 were pending in the present application before this amendment.

By the present amendment, claims 24-29 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 11-20 are amended; and claims 1-4 have been previously withdrawn from consideration. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Office Action claims 11-13, 15, 20-25, and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Japanese Publ. No. 2-143819 (hereinafter "JP '819").

For the reasons presented below, the Applicant respectfully traverses this anticipation rejection based on JP '819', and submits that the claims, as they now stand, are in allowable form.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed towards the following emphasized limitations found within independent claim 11, as amended:

CLAIM 11

A mold comprising:

- a front part having a front profile;
- a back part having a back profile; and
- a plurality of middle parts, each middle part having a middle profile;

wherein at least one of the front and back parts moves relative to one another between an open position and a closed position, wherein the plurality of middle parts is disposed between the front and back parts in the closed position, wherein each middle part is turnable about a separate axis, wherein the front part and the middle parts are alignable together to form a plurality of first perimeters defining a corresponding plurality of first substantially bounded by the front profile and the middle profiles when the front part and the middle parts are aligned together in the closed position whereby a

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plurality of sub-unit molded products can be formed in the plurality of first cavities by filing the first cavities with a substrate in which each sub-unit molded product comprising a first shape having a front complementary profile and a middle complementary profile,

wherein the front part and the middle parts are separable from each other, and

wherein the back part and the middle parts are alignable together when the plurality of sub-unit molded products are still attached to the middle parts to form a plurality of second perimeters defining a corresponding plurality of second cavities substantially bounded by a plurality of front complementary profiles in each of the sub-unit molded products when still attached to the middle parts and bounded by the back profile when the middle parts and the back part are aligned together in the closed position whereby, a plurality of assembled objects can be formed by filing the second cavities with a substance that mates with the sub-unit molded products, in which each assembled object comprising a second shape having the front complementary profile and a back complementary profile.

Support for this limitations of the *"plurality of middle parts, each middle part having a middle profile"* can be found, inter alia, in the specification at page 13 lines 13-24 and in FIG. 9). Support for the limitations that *"the front part and the middle parts are alignable together to form a plurality of first perimeters defining a corresponding plurality of first substantially bounded by the front profile and the middle profiles when the front part and the middle parts are aligned together in the closed position whereby a plurality of sub-unit molded products can be formed in the plurality of first cavities by filing the first cavities with a substrate in which each sub-unit molded product comprising a first shape having a front complementary profile and a middle complementary profile"* can also be found, inter alia, in the specification at page 13 lines 13-24 and in FIG. 9). Support for the limitations that *"the back part and the middle parts are alignable together when the plurality of sub-unit molded products are still attached to the middle parts to form a plurality of second perimeters defining a corresponding plurality of second cavities-substantially bounded by a plurality of*

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front complementary profiles in each of the sub-unit molded products when still attached to the middle parts and bounded by the back profile when the middle parts and the back part are aligned together in the closed position whereby, a plurality of assembled objects can be formed by filling the second cavities with a substance that mates with the sub-unit molded products, in which each assembled object comprising a second shape having the front complementary profile and a back complementary profile" can also be found, inter alia, in the specification at page 13 lines 13-24 and in FIG. 9).

The Applicant respectfully contends that the presently claimed invention claims limitations which are not taught by the JP'819 reference. In particular, the Applicant respectfully contends that none of the above emphasized limitations now found in independent claim 11, as amended can be found in the JP'819 reference. Further, the Office Action does not use the JP'819 reference to teach any of the above emphasized limitations now found in independent claim 11, as amended.

As per MPEP §2131, a reference must teach each and every claimed limitation of the present claimed invention in order to anticipate.

Since, the cited JP'819 reference does not teach, inter alia, the above emphasized limitations now found in independent claim 11, then JP'819 cannot anticipate independent claim 11, as amended.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11, as amended, is in allowable form, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this anticipation rejection to independent claim 11.

Claims 12-23 depend from independent claim 11 and, as such, incorporate by reference all the claim limitations contained therein, including the above emphasized limitations which have already been shown to be absent from JP'819. Accordingly

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claims 12-23 are also believed to be in allowable form as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this anticipation rejection of dependent claims 12-23.

FIRST REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action claims 14 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP'819 in view of Sorensen (U.S. 4,400,341).

For the reasons presented above and below, the Applicant respectfully traverses this obviousness rejection based on JP '819' in view of Sorensen, and submits that the claims, as they now stand, are in allowable form.

The Examiner's attention is again respectfully directed towards the emphasized limitations found within independent claim 11, as amended.

The Applicant respectfully contends that the deficiencies of JP'819 are not cured by combining the Sorenson reference. That is, the Office Action uses the Sorenson reference to teach mold parts having several profiles. Further, the Applicant respectfully contends that none of the above emphasized limitations now found in independent claim 11, as amended, can be found in the Sorenson reference. Accordingly, JP'819 in view of Sorenson, in whole or in combination, do not teach any of the above emphasized limitations now found in independent claim 11, as amended.

As per MPEP§2143.03, in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the combined prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Accordingly, since neither the JP'819 nor the Sorenson references, in whole or in combination, teach any of the above emphasized limitation now found in

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independent claim 11, as amended, then the combination of JP'819 and Sorenson do not support a prima facie case of obviousness of independent claim 11, as amended.

Claims 14 and 16-17 depend from independent claim 11 and, as such, incorporate by reference all the claim limitations contained therein, including the above emphasized limitations which have already been shown to be absent from both JP'819 and Sorenson. Accordingly claims 14 and 16-17 are also believed to be in allowable form as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of dependent claims 14 and 16-17.

SECOND REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action claims 18-19 AND 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP'819 in view of Sorensen (U.S. 4,400,341).

Regarding claims 26-29, the Applicant has subsequently canceled claims 26-29 without prejudice and thus removed the basis for this rejection. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claims 26-29.

Regarding claims 18-19, the Applicant respectfully traverses this obviousness rejection of claims 18-19 based on JP '819' in view of Watanabe, and submits that the claims, as they now stand, are in allowable form.

The Examiner's attention is again respectfully directed towards the emphasized limitations found within independent claim 11, as amended.

The Applicant respectfully contends that the deficiencies of JP'819 are not cured by combining the Watanabe reference. That is the Office Action uses the

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Watanabe reference to teach an ejector mechanism in mold parts. Further, the Applicant respectfully contends that none of the above emphasized limitations now found in independent claim 11, as amended, can be found in the Watanabe reference. Accordingly, JP'819 in view of Watanabe, in whole or in combination, do not teach any of the above emphasized limitations now found in independent claim 11, as amended.

As per MPEP§2143.03, in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the combined prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Accordingly, since neither the JP'819 nor the Watanabe references, in whole or in combination, teach any of the above emphasized limitation now found in independent claim 11, as amended, then the combination of JP'819 and Watanabe cannot support a prima facie case of obviousness of independent claim 11, as amended.

Claims 18-19 depend from independent claim 11 and, as such, incorporate by reference all the claim limitations contained therein, including the above emphasized limitations which have already been shown to be absent from both JP'819 and Sorenson. Accordingly claims 18-19 are also believed to be in allowable form as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of dependent claims 18-19.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-23, now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicits an indication of allowable subject matter.

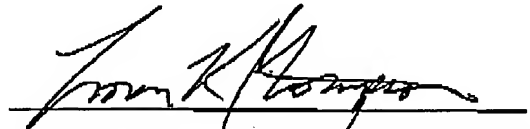
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This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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